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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000401

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FOR NEA AND AF

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/30/2017

TAGS: PREL MOPS BA SO ROW

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: SEEKING ARAB FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR AMISOM

REF: STATE 55804

Classified By: DCM Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) In an April 30 meeting covering several subjects (septels), the Ambassador delivered reftel demarche concerning financial or in-kind support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa. Shaikh Khalid replied that Bahrain wanted to support AMISOM but in the context of a concerted GCC effort. He said this could be an agenda item at the May 15 GCC consultative meeting. Somalia, he said, was a "hotbed of terror" that could spill outside its borders and pose a threat to the region.

¶2. (C) Shaikh Khalid noted there had been talk of a GCC - Red Sea conference in Oman to help AMISOM, but thus far the meeting had not been held. This should happen, he said.

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